THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Augmentation of trains including with general class coaches is an ongoing process on the Railways depending upon traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources. However, increasing general class coaches in 2723/2724 Andhra Pradesh Express is not feasible as the train is running with maximum permissible load.

Rail transportation of WCL in Gujarat

1444. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has requested for transportation of 50,000 Meters of WCL to Ukai TPS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Request was received from Gujarat Electricity Board for transportation of 50,000 tonnes of coal from Western Coalfield Ltd. (WCL). This was not accepted by Railways due to adverse financial implications and wastage of infrastructure created by Railways for transportation of coal from the traditional source of coal supply *i.e.* South Eastern Coalfield Limited to the Power Stations of Gujarat Electricity Board including Ukai. Railways have no problem in moving coal from Korea-Rewa or Korba field of South Eastern Coalfield Limited to Ukai TPS.

Computerised rail reservation at Wankaner

1445. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been pending with the Ministry of Railways to computerize reservation facility at Wankaner Junction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The demand for setting up of a computerised reservation centre at Wankaner Jn. was raised in the meeting of the Informal Consultative Committee held on 31-7-2001.

Computerized reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These facilities are, therefore, provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload available at Wankaner Station is not high enough to qualify for provision of a computerized reservation centre even under the recently liberalized policy of this Ministry.

Derailment of Sayajinagari Express

1446. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven coaches of Sayajinagari Express from Mumbai to Gandhidham in Kutch went off the rails near Surat on 20th February, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and injured in the accident; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid for each of the killed and injured passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. On 20.02.2002 at 19.23 hrs. 10 coaches of 9601 Sayajinagri Express derailed at Udhana station of Valsad-Surat Section of Mumbai Division, Western Railway.

(b) In this accident 2 passengers died in hospital, 4 grievously injured and 12 sustained simple injuries.

(c) No compensation has been paid so far. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal. However, ex-gratia has already been paid as per extant Rules.

Losses by Rail Accidents

†1447. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways suffered huge economic losses due to train accidents during the past few years;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.